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Paper No. 18

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OCT 14 2004

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In re Patent No. 6,024,708 :  
Issue Date: February 15, 2000 :  
Application No. 08/928,453 :  
Filed: September 12, 1997 :  
Patentee(s) Thomas O. Bales et al :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed April 26, 2004, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Irvin Dingle at (571) 272-3210.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Irvin Dingle  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy